

*From Richard A. Caldwell.<sup>14</sup>*

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Albemarle, N. C.,

September 5th., 1856.

The recent overwhelming defeat of the American party has so dispirited them, that it is feared by many that we will not be able to carry the State for Mr. Fillmore. That it is in the power of the party, aided by the old line Whigs, to accomplish this, I believe, and am glad that many concur with me in the opinion. Still, it is absolutely necessary that we must go to work, and that soon, for we have very little time to spare. I have conversed with many of the leading men of this country since the elections, and they all believe that, with proper effort, the State can be redeemed. The American party will stand firm, and if we fail to carry North Carolina, it will be owing to the defection, or apathy, of the old line Whigs. A union between the two parties is indispensable for success at the November elections. If the prominent men of the old line Whigs will take an active part, many that are now doubtful will come to the support of Mr. Fillmore, and this desired object can be attained.

To whom, then, can we appeal with more confidence than yourself. You have never joined the American party, but still remain an old line Whig. You were a member of Mr. Fillmore's administration, which signalized itself by its wisdom, & moderation, and the lofty manner in which it discharged the important trusts that devolved upon it. An administration to which the country can point with pride, and admiration. One which Mr. Fillmore himself says will be the standard by which his future conduct will be governed, if he should be elected Chief Executive of the nation. Your Position will enable you to accomplish much towards effecting this purpose. As the recognized leader of the old line Whigs, if you will enter, heart and soul into this contest, much, very much, will enure to our advantage.

I write this letter at the solicitation of many persons, among others Gen. Dockery, who says that he will do all in his power during the present contest. He suggests that you should make some appointments and address the people on the present alarming condition of the county, and says that you will not lack for support in any efforts that you may make.

<sup>14</sup> Richard Alexander Caldwell (1827-1882), of Stanly County, a son of Judge David F. Caldwell of Rowan County, a graduate of the University, lawyer, and later a delegate to the Convention of 1861 from Iredell County.